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Programme planning

Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In section III of its resolution 53/207 of 18 December 1998, the General Assembly adopted the revised Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, and requested the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the Assembly, through the Committee for Programme and Coordination, appropriate revisions to the relevant rules before their promulgation.

2. The revisions to regulation 5.4 that were adopted by the General Assembly included the introduction of the requirement to formulate, in the programme narrative, "objectives and expected accomplishments during the biennium". The first two sentences of regulation 5.4 as revised provide as follows:

> "The proposed programme budget shall be divided into parts, sections and programmes. Programme narratives shall set out subprogrammes, outputs, objectives and expected accomplishments during the biennium."

3. Following its review of the report of the Secretary-General on the revisions to the Rules (A/54/125) at its thirty-ninth session (July 1999), and having considered the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/54/6) in which the formulation of expected accomplishments had been included for the first time, the Committee for Programme and Coordination suggested that the Secretary-General bring to the attention of the General Assembly, along with the revised Rules, a rule that gives guidance to programme managers on the better implementation of regulation 5.4.[1] This suggestion was based, among other things, on the consideration that a better and sharper formulation of the expected accomplishments could help ensure a better implementation of programmes.

4. The proposed new paragraph set out below aims at providing better guidance on the formulation of expected accomplishments by clarifying the relation of the element of

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expected accomplishments to objectives and outputs. In rule 105.4, a new paragraph is to be inserted after current paragraph (c) of section 2, as follows:

> (c) Expected accomplishments shall be formulated for each subprogramme and shall identify those benefits or changes expected to accrue to users or beneficiaries through the delivery of final outputs. Expected accomplishments shall be in conformity with, and lead to the fulfilment of, the objectives established in the programmes and subprogrammes. Expected accomplishments shall be expressed in terms that will facilitate the subsequent determination of whether the expectations have been met.

5. The term "objectives" is defined in the existing glossary of terms annexed to the Regulations and does not seem to require further elaboration in rule 105.4.

6. The General Assembly may wish to take note of the additional paragraph in rule 105.4, along with the Rules set forth in the report of the Secretary-General (A/54/125).

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/54/16), chap. III, para. 48.